

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1795

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SUBJECT: CODEL KENNEDY: POLISH NEWSPAPER STORY

ENTITLED "THE 'LOVE STORY' OF TED KENNEDY"

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. DZIENNIK LUDOWY, THE DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED PEASANT PARTY, CARRIES ON PAGE 4 OF ITS APRIL 2 ISSUE A TWELVE-COLUMN-INCH STORY UNDER THE ABOVE HEADLINE. TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: ROSE KENNEDY, THE 82-YEAR-OLD DOYENNE OF THE 'KENNEDY CLAN,' HAS A NEW REASON FOR WORRY. DESPITE HER ADVANCED AGE, SHE IS FULL OF LIFE AND AMBITION. HER DREAM IS THAT TED KENNEDY SHOULD BECOME THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IT APPEARED THAT THIS DESIRE WAS CLOSE TO REALIZATION. RECENTLY, KENNEDY'S POPULARITY HAD RISEN AGAIN. MEANWHILE, TED BECAME ENTANGLED IN A NEW ROMANCE. THIS MOST RECENT 'LOVE STORY' MAY HAVE A DAMAGING EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL CAREER OF THE LAST OF THE KENNEDY BROTHERS, AND EVEN BURY IT COMPLETELY.

3. IN THE GREAT BANQUET HALL OF THE NEW YORK PLAZA HOTEL, A FORMAL BANQUET, GIVEN ON THE OCCASION OF A DEMOCRATIC PARTY RALLY, WAS ABOUT TO
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BEGIN. 42-YEAR-OLD TED KENNEDY WAS SURROUNDED BY

A LARGE GROUP OF PARTY LEADERS, WHO WERE GREETING THE ARRIVING GUESTS. AMONG THE LATTER WAS A GIRL WHO WITHOUT EXAGGERATION COULD BE CALLED THE QUEEN OF THE BALL.

4. HER NAME WAS BERNADETTE KOVACS AND SHE HAD RECENTLY ARRIVED IN THE USA FROM HUNGARY. THUS, THEY MET.

5. AT FIRST, TED AND BERNADETTE (SEE THE PHOTO) MET SECRETLY AND TRIED TO CONCEAL FROM PUBLIC OPINION THE ROMANCE WHICH LINKED THEM. GRADUALLY, HOWEVER, RUMORS ABOUT THEM SPREAD WIDELY AND EVOKED A NOISY ECHO.

6. DURING THE 16 YEARS OF THE KENNEDYS' MARRIED LIFE, DIFFICULT CONFLICTS HAD OCCURRED. IN 1969, THERE WAS THE TRAGIC AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT CAUSED BY TED, IN WHICH JO KOPECHNE PERISHED. THREE YEARS LATER, THE SENATOR'S FLIRTATION WITH AMANDA BURDEN CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF COMMOTION. TED'S WIFE ALWAYS DEFENDED HIM. SHE IS DOING SO THIS TIME, TOO, IN THE BERNADETTE CASE.

7. IN FACT, HOWEVER, THE NEW 'LOVE STORY' OF HER HUSBAND ADDS TO THE MANY WORRIES AND TROUBLES OF JOAN KENNEDY. AT THIS TIME, HER PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS THE WELFARE OF HER 12-YEAR-OLD SON. IN NOVEMBER, 1973, IT WAS FOUND THAT THE BOY HAD CANCER OF THE BONE AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO AMPUTATE HIS RIGHT LEG ABOVE THE KNEE. THE UNFORTUNATE BOY ALREADY GOES SWIMMING, AND EVEN RIDES A BICYCLE, BUT THE DANGER OF A RECURRENCE HAS NOT BEEN ELIMINATED. AT ANY MOMENT, THE CHILD'S BODY MAY BE ATTACKED BY DISEASE.

8. THE WORRIES AND TROUBLES OF JOAN ARE SHARED BY TED'S MOTHER, THE 82-YEAR-OLD ROSE KENNEDY, WHO, GREATLY WORRIED NOT ONLY ABOUT HER SON'S HOUSEHOLD, BUT ALSO ABOUT HIS POLITICAL CAREER, WARNS HIM: "BOY, STAY FAR AWAY FROM BERNADETTE." END QUOTE.

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9. THE ARTICLE IS ACCOMPANIED BY A FIVE-COLUMN-INCH CUT OF AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN, PRESUMABLY BERNADETTE KOVACS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

10. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS A MINOR NEWSPAPER, DZIENNIK LUDOWY'S PRINCIPAL AUDIENCE IS THE POLISH PEASANTRY; IT IS WIDELY READ IN WARSAW BY URBANIZED MIGRANTS FROM THE FARM. THE

PUBLICATION OF THIS STORY AT THIS TIME APPEARS DESIGNED,
AT A MINIMUM, TO DISCOURAGE A LARGE PUBLIC
TURN-OUT TO GREET SENATOR KENNEDY DURING HIS PLANNED
VISIT HERE. SINCE WE CANNOT IMAGINE THAT SUCH A
STORY COULD HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED AT THIS TIME IN ANY
POLISH NEWSPAPER EXCEPT AT THE DIRECTION OF THE
POLISH REGIME, ITS ORIGINATORS MAY ALSO HAVE HOPED
THAT IT MIGHT DISCOURAGE THE SENATOR FROM VISITING POLAND
ALTOGETHER. CLEARLY, THE REGIME WOULD PREFER THAT HE NOT BE
HERE AT PRECISELY THE TIME AT WHICH THE WARSAW
PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL PRESUMABLE
BE MEETING IN WARSAW. END COMMENT.
END CONFIDENTIAL.
DAVIES

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